

Appl. No. 10/811,590
Amdt. Dated Dec 27, 2005
Reply to Office action of July 22, 2005

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0032] with the following paragraph:

[0032] The long legs 38 are perpendicularly attached to the bottom surface 36 of the mat base 32. This will provide resilient support for the mat base 32. The short legs 40 are perpendicularly attached to the bottom surface of the mat base 32. The long legs 38 and the short legs 40 are adapted to provide a selected mat compression when a load is applied to the top surface 34 of the mat base 32. The combination of long legs 38 and short legs 40 causes the mat 30 which is constructed from hard rubber to feel and function as if it were constructed from a softer, more compressive rubber. As can be seen in Figures 2, 3, 4, 5a - 5c, and 7, the long legs 38 and the short legs 40 are stud shaped.

Please replace paragraph [0036] with the following paragraph:

[0036] The grit trenches 64 are embedded within the top surface 34 of the mat base 32. The grit trenches 64 are intended to hold grit 70. Each grit trench 64 has two ends 66. ~~Each end 66 has open ends 66, as shown in Figure 1. As shown in Figures 1, 6, and 8-10, each end 66 is~~ bounded by an upstanding nubby retention lip 68 forming a dam for retaining adhesive 72 and grit 70. The retention lip 68 prevents the adhesive 72 from flowing out of the grit trench 64, while the adhesive 72 is in a liquid form. This enhances the ability to selectively place grit 70 upon the top surface 34 of the mat 30.

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Please replace paragraph [0037] with the following paragraph:

[0037] Grit 70 is securely bonded into the grit trenches 64 with the adhesive 72. The preferred grit 70 is silicon carbide. The preferred adhesive 72 is cyanoacrylate. ~~[[i]]~~In order to minimize the likelihood of mat 30 flexure causing the grit 70 to become unbonded, the grit 70 and adhesive 72 are placed substantially below the top surface 34 of the mat 30, as shown in Figure 10.

However, some of the grit 70 must protrude above the top surface 34 of the mat base 32 in order for the grit 70 to increase the coefficient of friction of the top surface 34 of the mat base 32. To further reduce unbonding of grit 70 by flexure, long legs 38 are perpendicularly attached to the bottom surface 36 of the mat base 32 below the grit trenches 64 in order to provide support for the grit trenches 64. Because the grit 70 and adhesive 72 are substantially below the top surface 34 of the mat base 32 and because the grit trenches 64 are supported by long legs 38 grit 70 may be selectively placed upon the top surface 34 without significant unbonding being caused by flexure.